

# DYNAMICAL DELOCALIZATION IN RANDOM LANDAU HAMILTONIANS

FRANÇOIS GERMINET, ABEL KLEIN, AND JEFFREY H. SCHENKER

**ABSTRACT.** We prove the existence of dynamical delocalization for random Landau Hamiltonians near each Landau level. Since typically there is dynamical localization at the edges of each disordered-broadened Landau band, this implies the existence of at least one dynamical mobility edge at each Landau band, namely a boundary point between the localization and delocalization regimes, which we prove to converge to the corresponding Landau level as either the magnetic field or the disorder goes to zero.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

In this article we prove the existence of dynamical delocalization for random Landau Hamiltonians near each Landau level. More precisely, we prove that for these two-dimensional Hamiltonians there exists at least one energy  $E$  near each Landau level such that  $\beta(E) \geq \frac{1}{4}$ , where  $\beta(E)$ , the local transport exponent introduced in [GK5], is a measure of the rate of transport for which  $E$  is responsible. Since typically there is dynamical localization at the edges of each disordered-broadened Landau band, this implies the existence of at least one dynamical mobility edge at each Landau band, namely a boundary point between the localization and delocalization regimes, which we prove to converge to the corresponding Landau level as either the magnetic field or the disorder goes to zero.

Random Landau Hamiltonians are the subject of intensive study due to their links with the quantum Hall effect [Kli], for which von Klitzing received the 1985 Nobel Prize in Physics. They describe an electron moving in a very thin flat conductor with impurities under the influence of a constant magnetic field perpendicular to the plane of the conductor, and play an important role in the understanding of the quantum Hall effect [L, AoA, T, H, NT, Ku, Be, AvSS, BeES]. Laughlin's argument [L], as pointed out by Halperin [H], uses the assumption that under weak disorder and strong magnetic field the energy spectrum consists of bands of extended states separated by energy regions of localized states and/or energy gaps. (The experimental existence of a nonzero quantized Hall conductance was construed as evidence for the existence of extended states, e.g., [AoA, T].) Halperin's analysis provided a theoretical justification for the existence of extended states near the Landau levels, or at least of some form of delocalization, and of nonzero Hall conductance. Kunz [Ku] stated assumptions under which he derived the divergence of a "localization length" near each Landau level at weak disorder, in agreement with Halperin's argument. Bellissard, van Elst and Schulz-Baldes [BeES] proved that, for a random Landau Hamiltonian in a tight-binding approximation, if the Hall

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2000 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* Primary 82B44; Secondary 47B80, 60H25.  
A.K. was supported in part by NSF Grant DMS-0200710.

conductance jumps from one integer value to another between two Fermi energies, then there is an energy between these Fermi energies at which a certain localization length diverges. Aizenman and Graf [AG] gave a more elementary derivation of this result, incorporating ideas of Avron, Seiler and Simon [AvSS]. (We refer to [BeES] for an excellent overview of the quantum Hall effect.) But before the present paper there were no results about non trivial transport and existence of a *dynamical* mobility edge near the Landau levels.

The main open problem in random Schrödinger operators is delocalization, the existence of “extended states”, a forty-year old problem that goes back to Anderson’s seminal article [An]. In three or more dimensions it is believed that there exists a transition from an insulator regime, characterized by “localized states”, to a very different metallic regime characterized by “extended states”. The energy at which this metal-insulator transition occurs is called the “mobility edge”. For two-dimensional random Landau Hamiltonians such a transition is expected to occur near each Landau level [L, H, T].

The occurrence of localization is by now well established, e.g., [GoMP, FrS, FrMSS, CKM, S, DrK, KILS, AM, FK1, A, KIo1, CoH1, CoH2, FK2, FK3, W1, GD, KSS, CoHT, ASFH, DS, GK1, St, W2, KIo2, DSS, KIK2, GK3, AENSS, BouK] and many more. But delocalization is another story. At present, the only mathematical result for a typical random Schrödinger operator (that is, ergodic and with a locally Hölder-continuous integrated density of states at all energies) is for the Anderson model on the Bethe lattice, where Klein has proved that for small disorder the random operator has purely absolutely continuous spectrum in a nontrivial interval [K11] and exhibits ballistic behavior [K12]. For lattice Schrödinger operators with slowly decaying random potential, Bourgain proved existence of absolutely continuous spectrum in  $d = 2$  and constructed proper extended states for dimensions  $d \geq 5$  [Bou1, Bou2]. For lattice Schrödinger operators, Jaksic and Last [JL] gave conditions under which the existence of singular spectrum can be ruled out, yielding the existence of absolutely continuous spectrum. Two other promising approaches to the phenomena of delocalization do not work directly with random Schrödinger operators; one studies delocalization in the context of random matrices [DiPS, BMR, SZ], and the other studies a scaling limit of a random Schrödinger equation up to a disorder dependent finite time scale [ErY, Che, ErSY].

But what do we mean by delocalization? In the physics literature one finds the expression “extended states,” which is often interpreted in the mathematics literature as absolutely continuous spectrum. But the latter may not be the correct interpretation in the case of random Landau Hamiltonians; Thouless [T] discussed the possibility of singular continuous spectrum or even of the delocalization occurring at a single energy. In this paper we rely on the approach to the metal-insulator transition developed by Germinet and Klein [GK5], based on transport instead of spectral properties. It provides a structural result on the dynamics of Anderson-type random operators: At a given energy  $E$  there is either dynamical localization ( $\beta(E) = 0$ ) or dynamical delocalization with a non zero minimal rate of transport ( $\beta(E) \geq \frac{1}{2d}$ , with  $d$  the dimension). An energy at which such a transition occurs is called a dynamical mobility edge. (The terminology used in this paper differs from the one in [GK4, GK5], which use strong insulator region for the intersection of the region of dynamical localization with the spectrum, weak metallic region for

the region of dynamical delocalization, and transport mobility edge for dynamical mobility edge.)

We prove that for disorder and magnetic field for which the energy spectrum consists of disjoint bands around the Landau levels (as in the case of either weak disorder or strong magnetic field), the random Landau Hamiltonian exhibits dynamical delocalization in each band (Theorem 2.1). Since the existence of dynamical localization at the edges of the bands is known [CoH2, W1, GK3], this proves the existence of dynamical mobility edges. We thus provide a mathematically rigorous derivation of the previously mentioned underlying assumption in Laughlin's argument.

We also address the issue of the location of the delocalized energies in each disorder-broadened Landau band. Percolation arguments and numerical results indicate that for large magnetic field there should be only one delocalized energy, located at the Landau level [ChD]. We prove that these predictions hold asymptotically. That is, for the random Landau Hamiltonian studied in [CoH2, GK3], we prove that delocalized energies converge to the corresponding Landau level as the magnetic field goes to infinity (Corollary 2.3). We also prove this result as the disorder goes to zero for an appropriately defined random Landau Hamiltonian (Corollary 2.4).

Our proof of dynamical delocalization for random Landau Hamiltonians is based on the use of some decidedly nontrivial consequences of the multiscale analysis for random Schrödinger operators combined with the generalized eigenfunction expansion to establish properties of the Hall conductance. It relies on three main ingredients:

(1) The analysis in [GK5] showing that for an Anderson-type random Schrödinger operator the region of dynamical localization is exactly the region of applicability of the multiscale analysis, that is, the conclusions of the multiscale analysis are valid at every energy in the region of dynamical localization, and that outside this region some nontrivial transport must occur with non zero minimal rate of transport.

(2) The random Landau Hamiltonian satisfies all the requirements for the multiscale analysis (i.e., the hypotheses in [GK1, GK5]) at all energies. The only difficulty here is a Wegner estimate at all energies, including the Landau levels, a required hypothesis for applying (1). If the single bump in the Anderson-style potential covers the unit square this estimate was known [HuLMW]. But if the single bump has small support (which is the most interesting case for this paper in view of Corollary 2.3), a Wegner estimate at all energies was only known for the case of rational flux in the unit square [CoHK]. We prove a new Wegner estimate which has no restrictions on the magnetic flux in unit square (Theorem 4.1). This Wegner estimate holds in appropriate squares with integral flux, hence the length scales of the squares may not be commensurate with the distances between bumps in the Anderson-style potential. This problem is overcome by performing the multiscale analysis with finite volume operators defined with boundary conditions depending on the location of the square (see the discussion in Section 4).

(3) Some information on the Hall conductance, namely: (i) The precise values of the Hall conductance for the (free) Landau Hamiltonian: it is constant between Landau levels and jumps by one at each Landau level, a well known fact (e.g., [AvSS, BeES]). (ii) The Hall conductance is constant as a function of the disorder parameter in the gaps between the spectral bands around the Landau levels, a result

derived by Elgart and Schlein [ES] for smooth potentials and extended here to more general potentials (Lemma 3.3). Combining (i) and (ii) we conclude that the Hall conductivity cannot be constant across Landau levels. (iii) The Hall conductance is well defined and constant in intervals of dynamical localization. This is proved here in a very transparent way using a deep consequence of the multiscale analysis, called SUDEC, derived from a new characterization of the region of dynamical localization [GK6]. SUDEC is used to show that in intervals of dynamical localization the change in the Hall conductance is given by the (infinite) sum of the contributions to the Hall conductance due to the individual localized states, which is trivially seen to be equal to zero. (See Lemma 3.2. This constancy in intervals of localization was known for discrete operators as a consequence of the quantization of the Hall conductance [BeES, AG]. An independent but somewhat similar proof for discrete operators with finitely degenerate eigenvalues is found in the recent paper [EGS]. We do not need to rule out eigenvalues with infinite multiplicity for random Landau Hamiltonians; they are controlled using SUDEC.) Combining with (i) and (ii), we will conclude that there must be dynamical delocalization as we cross a Landau level.

It is worth noting that each of the three ingredients (1), (2) and (3) is based on intensive research conducted over the past 20 years. (1) relies on the ideas of the multiscale analysis, originally introduced by Fröhlich and Spencer [FrS] and further developed in [FrMSS, Dr, DrK, S, CoH1, FK2, GK1]. (2), namely the Wegner estimate, originally proved for lattice operators by Wegner [We], is a key tool for the multiscale analysis, and it has been studied in the continuum in [CoH1, KIo1, HuLMW, CoHN, HiK, CoHK]. (3) has a long story in the study of the quantum Hall effect [L, H, TKNN, Ku, Be, AvSS, BeES, AG, ES, EGS].

In this paper we give a simple and self-contained analysis of the Hall conductance based on consequences of localization for random Schrödinger operators. In particular, we do not use the fact that the quantization of the Hall conductance is a consequence of the geometric interpretation of this quantity as a Chern character or a Fredholm index [TKNN, Be, AvSS, BES, AG]. Our analysis applies when the disorder-broadened Landau levels do not overlap (true at either large magnetic field or small disorder). In a sequel, extending an argument of [AG] for discrete operators, we will discuss quantization of the Hall conductance for ergodic Landau Hamiltonians in the region where we have sufficient decay of operator kernels of the Fermi projections. This fact is well known for lattice Hamiltonians [Be, BES, AG], but the details of the proof have been spelled out for continuum operators only in spectral gaps [AvSS]. Combining results from the present paper and its sequel we expect to prove dynamical delocalization for random Landau Hamiltonians in cases when the Landau bands overlap.

This paper is organized as follows: In Section 2 we introduce the random Landau Hamiltonians and state our results. Our main result is Theorem 2.1, the existence of dynamical delocalization for random Landau Hamiltonians near each Landau level. This theorem is restated in a more general form as Theorem 2.2, which is proved in Section 3. In Corollary 2.3 we give a rather complete picture for random Landau Hamiltonians at large magnetic field as in [CoH1, GK3]: there are dynamical mobility edges in each Landau level, which converge to the corresponding Landau level as the magnetic field goes to infinity. Corollary 2.4 gives a similar picture as the disorder goes to zero; it is proven in Section 5. In Section 4 we show

that random Landau Hamiltonians satisfy all the requirements for a multiscale analysis; Theorem 4.1 is the Wegner estimate.

**Notation.** We write  $\langle x \rangle := \sqrt{1 + |x|^2}$ . The characteristic function of a set  $A$  will be denoted by  $\chi_A$ . Given  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $L > 0$  we set

$$\Lambda_L(x) := \{y \in \mathbb{R}^2; |y - x|_\infty < \frac{L}{2}\}, \quad \chi_{x,L} := \chi_{\Lambda_L(x)}, \quad \chi_x := \chi_{x,1}.$$

$C_c^\infty(I)$  denotes the class of real valued infinitely differentiable functions on  $\mathbb{R}$  with compact support contained in the open interval  $I$ , with  $C_{c,+}^\infty(I)$  being the subclass of nonnegative functions. The Hilbert-Schmidt norm of an operator  $A$  is written as  $\|A\|_2 = \sqrt{\text{tr } A^* A}$ .

*Acknowledgement.* The authors are grateful to Jean Bellissard, Jean-Michel Combes, Peter Hislop and Frédéric Klopp for many helpful discussions.

## 2. MODEL AND RESULTS

We consider the random Landau Hamiltonian

$$H_{B,\lambda,\omega} = H_B + \lambda V_\omega \quad \text{on } L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx), \quad (2.1)$$

where  $H_B$  is the (free) Landau Hamiltonian,

$$H_B = (-i\nabla - \mathbf{A})^2 \quad \text{with} \quad \mathbf{A} = \frac{B}{2}(x_2, -x_1). \quad (2.2)$$

Here  $\mathbf{A}$  is the vector potential and  $B > 0$  is the strength of the magnetic field, we use the symmetric gauge and incorporated the charge of the electron in the vector potential). The parameter  $\lambda > 0$  measures the disorder strength, and  $V_\omega$  is a random potential of the form

$$V_\omega(x) = \sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \omega_i u(x - i), \quad (2.3)$$

with  $u$  a measurable function satisfying  $u^- \chi_{0,\varepsilon_u} \leq u \leq u^+ \chi_{0,\delta_u}$  for some  $0 < \varepsilon_u \leq \delta_u < \infty$  and  $0 < u^- \leq u^+ < \infty$ , and  $\omega = \{\omega_i; i \in \mathbb{Z}^2\}$  a family of independent, identically distributed random variables taking values in a bounded interval  $[-M_1, M_2]$  ( $0 \leq M_1, M_2 < \infty$ ,  $M_1 + M_2 > 0$ ) whose common probability distribution  $\nu$  has a bounded density  $\rho$ . (We write  $(\Omega, \mathbb{P})$  for the underlying probability space, and  $\mathbb{E}$  for the corresponding expectation.) Without loss of generality we set  $\|\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^2} u(x - i)\|_\infty = 1$ , and hence  $-M_1 \leq V_\omega(x) \leq M_2$ .

$H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  is a random operator, i.e., the mappings  $\omega \rightarrow f(H_{B,\lambda,\omega})$  are strongly measurable for all bounded measurable functions on  $\mathbb{R}$ . We define the magnetic translations  $U_a = U_a(B)$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , by

$$(U_a \psi)(x) = e^{-i\frac{B}{2}(x_2 a_1 - x_1 a_2)} \psi(x - a), \quad (2.4)$$

obtaining a projective unitary representation of  $\mathbb{R}^2$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$ :

$$U_a U_b = e^{i\frac{B}{2}(a_2 b_1 - a_1 b_2)} U_{a+b} = e^{iB(a_2 b_1 - a_1 b_2)} U_b U_a, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Z}^2. \quad (2.5)$$

We have  $U_a H_B U_a^* = H_B$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and for magnetic translation by elements of  $\mathbb{Z}^2$  we have the covariance relation:

$$U_a H_{B,\lambda,\omega} U_a^* = H_{B,\lambda,\tau_a \omega} \quad \text{for } a \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \quad (2.6)$$

where  $(\tau_a \omega)_i = \omega_{i-a}$ ,  $i \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ . It follows that  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}^2$ -ergodic random self-adjoint operator on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$ ; hence there exists a nonrandom set  $\Sigma_{B,\lambda}$  such that  $\sigma(H_{B,\lambda,\omega}) = \Sigma_{B,\lambda}$  with probability one, and the decomposition of  $\sigma(H_{B,\lambda,\omega})$

into pure point spectrum, absolutely continuous spectrum, and singular continuous spectrum is also independent of the choice of  $\omega$  with probability one [KM1, PF].

The spectrum  $\sigma(H_B)$  of the Landau Hamiltonian  $H_B$  consists of a sequence of infinitely degenerate eigenvalues, the Landau levels:

$$B_n = (2n - 1)B, \quad n = 1, 2, \dots \quad (2.7)$$

It will be convenient to set  $B_0 = -\infty$ . A simple argument shows that

$$\Sigma_{B,\lambda} \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda), \quad \text{where } \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda) = [B_n - \lambda M_1, B_n + \lambda M_2]. \quad (2.8)$$

If the *disjoint bands condition*

$$\lambda(M_1 + M_2) < 2B, \quad (2.9)$$

is satisfied (true at either weak disorder or strong magnetic field), the (disorder-broadened) Landau bands  $\mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda)$  are disjoint, and hence the open intervals

$$\mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda) = ]B_n + \lambda M_1, B_{n+1} - \lambda M_2[, \quad n = 0, 1, 2, \dots, \quad (2.10)$$

are nonempty spectral gaps for  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$ . Moreover, if  $\rho > 0$  a.e. on  $[-M_1, M_2]$  and (2.9) holds, then for each  $B > 0$ ,  $\lambda > 0$ , and  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  we can find  $a_{j,B,\lambda,n} \in [0, \lambda M_j]$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , continuous in  $\lambda$ , such that [KM2, Theorem 4]

$$\Sigma_{B,\lambda} = \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathcal{I}_n(B, \lambda), \quad \mathcal{I}_n(B, \lambda) = [B_n - a_{1,B,\lambda,n}, B_n + a_{2,B,\lambda,n}]. \quad (2.11)$$

Our main result says that under the disjoint bands condition the random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  exhibits dynamical delocalization in each Landau band  $\mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda)$ . To measure “dynamical delocalization” we introduce

$$M_{B,\lambda,\omega}(p, \mathcal{X}, t) = \left\| \langle x \rangle^{\frac{p}{2}} e^{-itH_{B,\lambda,\omega}} \mathcal{X}(H_{B,\lambda,\omega}) \chi_0 \right\|_2^2, \quad (2.12)$$

the random moment of order  $p \geq 0$  at time  $t$  for the time evolution in the Hilbert-Schmidt norm, initially spatially localized in the square of side one around the origin (with characteristic function  $\chi_0$ ), and “localized” in energy by the function  $\mathcal{X} \in C_{c,+}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$ . Its time averaged expectation is given by

$$\mathcal{M}_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}, T) = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T \mathbb{E} \{ M_{B,\lambda,\omega}(p, \mathcal{X}, t) \} e^{-\frac{t}{T}} dt. \quad (2.13)$$

**Theorem 2.1.** *Under the disjoint bands condition the random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  exhibits dynamical delocalization in each Landau band  $\mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda)$ : For each  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  there exists at least one energy  $E_n(B, \lambda) \in \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda)$ , such that for every  $\mathcal{X} \in C_{c,+}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\mathcal{X} \equiv 1$  on some open interval  $J \ni E_n(B, \lambda)$  and  $p > 0$ , we have*

$$\mathcal{M}_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}, T) \geq C_{p,\mathcal{X}} T^{\frac{p}{4}-6} \quad (2.14)$$

for all  $T \geq 0$  with  $C_{p,\mathcal{X}} > 0$ .

Following [GK5], we introduce the (lower) transport exponent

$$\beta_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}) = \liminf_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log_+ \mathcal{M}_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}, T)}{p \log T} \quad \text{for } p \geq 0, \mathcal{X} \in C_{c,+}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R}), \quad (2.15)$$

where  $\log_+ t = \max\{\log t, 0\}$ , and define the  $p$ -th local transport exponent at the energy  $E$  by ( $I$  denotes an open interval)

$$\beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E) = \inf_{I \ni E} \sup_{\mathcal{X} \in C_{c,+}^\infty(I)} \beta_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}). \quad (2.16)$$

The transport exponents  $\beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E)$  provide a measure of the rate of transport for which  $E$  is responsible. They are increasing in  $p$  and hence we define the local (lower) transport exponent  $\beta_{B,\lambda}(E)$  by

$$\beta_{B,\lambda}(E) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E) = \sup_{p > 0} \beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E). \quad (2.17)$$

These transport exponents satisfy the ballistic bound [GK5, Proposition 3.2]:  $0 \leq \beta_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}), \beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E), \beta_{B,\lambda}(E) \leq 1$ . Note that  $\beta_{B,\lambda}(E) = 0$  if  $E \notin \Sigma_{B,\lambda}$ .

Using this local transport exponent we define two complementary regions in the energy axis for fixed  $B > 0$  and  $\lambda > 0$ : the *region of dynamical localization*,

$$\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}} = \{E \in \mathbb{R}; \quad \beta_{B,\lambda}(E) = 0\}, \quad (2.18)$$

and the region of *dynamical delocalization*,

$$\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DD}} = \{E \in \mathbb{R}; \quad \beta_{B,\lambda}(E) > 0\}. \quad (2.19)$$

Note that  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}}$  is an open set and that  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DD}} \subset \Sigma_{B,\lambda}$ .

We may now restate Theorem 2.1 in a more general form as

**Theorem 2.2.** *Consider a random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  under the disjoint bands condition (2.9). Then for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  we have*

$$\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DD}} \cap \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda) \neq \emptyset. \quad (2.20)$$

*In particular, there exists at least one energy  $E_n(B, \lambda) \in \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda)$  satisfying (2.14) and*

$$\beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E_n(B, \lambda)) \geq \frac{1}{4} - \frac{11}{2p} > 0 \text{ for all } p > 22 \text{ and } \beta_{B,\lambda}(E_n(B, \lambda)) \geq \frac{1}{4}. \quad (2.21)$$

Theorem 2.2 is proved in Section 3. We will prove (2.20), from which (2.21) and (2.14) follows by [GK5, Theorems 2.10 and 2.11].

Next we investigate the location of the delocalized energy  $E_n(B, \lambda)$ , and show in two different asymptotic regimes that it converges to the  $n$ -th Landau level. We recall that in the physics literature localized and extended states are expected to be separated by an energy called a mobility edge. Similarly, there is a natural definition for a *dynamical mobility edge*: an energy  $\tilde{E} \in \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DD}} \cap \left\{ \overline{\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}} \cap \Sigma_{B,\lambda}} \right\}$ , that is, an energy where the spectrum undergoes a transition from dynamical localization to dynamical delocalization.

In the regime of large magnetic field (and fixed disorder) we have the following rather complete picture for the model studied in [CoH2, GK3], consistent with the prediction that at very large magnetic field there is only one delocalized energy in each Landau band, located at the Landau level [ChD].

**Corollary 2.3.** *Consider a random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  satisfying the following additional conditions on the random potential: (i)  $u \in C^2$  and  $\text{supp } u \subset D_{\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}}(0)$ , the open disc of radius  $\frac{\sqrt{2}}{2}$  centered at 0. (ii) The density of the probability distribution  $\nu$  is an even function  $\rho > 0$  a.e. on  $[-M, M]$  ( $M = M_1 = M_2$ ). (iii)*

$\nu([0, s]) \geq c \min\{s, M\}^\zeta$  for some  $c > 0$  and  $\zeta > 0$ . Fix  $\lambda > 0$  and let  $B > 0$  satisfy (2.9), in which case the spectrum  $\Sigma_{B,\lambda}$  is given by (2.11) with

$$0 \leq \lambda M - a_{j,B,\lambda,n} \leq C_n(\lambda) B^{-\frac{1}{2}}, \quad j = 1, 2. \quad (2.22)$$

Then for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , if  $B$  is large enough there exist dynamical mobility edges  $\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , with

$$\max_{j=1,2} |\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda) - B_n| \leq K_n(\lambda) \frac{\log B}{B} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } B \rightarrow \infty, \quad (2.23)$$

$$B_n - a_{1,B,\lambda,n} < \tilde{E}_{1,n}(B, \lambda) \leq \tilde{E}_{2,n}(B, \lambda) < B_n + a_{2,B,\lambda,n}, \quad (2.24)$$

$$[B_n - a_{1,B,\lambda,n}, \tilde{E}_{1,n}(B, \lambda) \cup \tilde{E}_{2,n}(B, \lambda), B_n + a_{2,B,\lambda,n}] \subset \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}. \quad (2.25)$$

(By  $C_n(\lambda), K_n(\lambda)$  we denote finite constants. It is possible that  $\tilde{E}_{1,n}(B, \lambda) = \tilde{E}_{2,n}(B, \lambda)$ , i.e., dynamical delocalization occurs at a single energy.)

*Proof.* The estimate (2.22) is proven in [CoH2], the existence of energies  $\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , satisfying (2.24), (2.25) and (2.23) is proven in [GK3, Theorem 4.1]. The fact that we can choose  $\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , that are also dynamical mobility edges follows from Theorem 2.1.  $\square$

We now investigate the small disorder regime (at fixed magnetic field) and prove a result in the spirit of Corollary 2.3. It is not too interesting to just let  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$  in (2.1), since the spectrum of the Hamiltonian would then shrink to the Landau levels (see (2.8)) and the result would be trivial. In order to keep the size of the spectrum constant we rescale the probability distribution  $\nu$  of the  $\omega'_i$ s by concentrating more and more of the mass of  $\nu$  around zero as  $\lambda \rightarrow 0$ .

**Corollary 2.4.** *Let  $\rho > 0$  a.e on  $\mathbb{R}$  be the density of a probability distribution  $\nu$  with  $\langle u \rangle^\gamma \rho(u)$  bounded for some  $\gamma > 1$ . Fix  $b > 0$ , and set  $\nu_\lambda$  to be the probability distribution with density  $\rho_\lambda(u) = c_{b,\lambda} \lambda^{-1} \rho(\lambda^{-1}u) \chi_{[-b,b]}(u)$ , where the constant  $c_{b,\lambda}$  is chosen so that  $\nu_\lambda(\mathbb{R}) = \nu_\lambda([-b,b]) = 1$ . Define  $H_{\omega,B,\lambda}$  by (2.1) with  $\lambda = 1$  but with the  $\lambda$  dependent common probability distribution  $\nu_\lambda$  for the random variables  $\{\omega_i; i \in \mathbb{Z}^2\}$ . Assuming  $B > b$ , (2.9) holds and the spectrum  $\Sigma_{B,\lambda}$  given by (2.11) is independent of  $\lambda$ . Then for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ , if  $\lambda$  is small enough there exist dynamical mobility edges  $\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , satisfying (2.24) and (2.25), and we have*

$$\max_{j=1,2} |\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda) - B_n| \leq K_n(B) \lambda^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} |\log \lambda|^{\frac{2}{\gamma}} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } \lambda \rightarrow 0, \quad (2.26)$$

with a finite constant  $K_n(B)$ . Moreover, if the density  $\rho$  satisfies the stronger condition of  $e^{|u|^\alpha} \rho(u)$  being bounded for some  $\alpha > 0$ , the estimate in (2.26) holds with  $K_n(B) \lambda |\log \lambda|^{\frac{1}{\alpha}}$  in the right hand side. (It is possible that  $\tilde{E}_{1,n}(B, \lambda) = \tilde{E}_{2,n}(B, \lambda)$ , i.e., dynamical delocalization occurs at a single energy.)

Corollary 2.4 is proven in Section 5.

### 3. THE EXISTENCE OF DYNAMICAL DELOCALIZATION

In this section we prove Theorem 2.2 (and hence Theorem 2.1). For convenience we write  $H_{B,0,\omega} = H_B$  and extend (2.18) to  $\lambda = 0$  by  $\Xi_{B,0}^{DL} = \mathbb{R} \setminus \sigma(H_B) = \mathbb{R} \setminus \{B_n; n = 1, 2, \dots\}$ ; the statements below will hold (trivially) for  $\lambda = 0$  unless this case is explicitly excluded. Given a Borel set  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathbb{R}$ , we set  $P_{B,\lambda,\mathcal{J},\omega} =$



$\chi_{\mathcal{J}}(H_{B,\lambda,\omega})$ . If  $\mathcal{J} = ]-\infty, E]$ , we write  $P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega}$  for  $P_{B,\lambda,]-\infty, E],\omega}$ , the Fermi projection corresponding to the Fermi energy  $E$ .

The random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  ( $\lambda > 0$ ) satisfies all the hypotheses in [GK1, GK5] at all energies, as shown in Section 4. The following results are relevant to the proof of Theorem 2.2: RDL (region of dynamical localization), RDD (region of dynamical delocalization), DFP (decay of the Fermi projection), and SUDEC (summable uniform decay of eigenfunction correlations).

**(RDL).** *The region of dynamical localization  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$  is exactly the region of applicability of the multiscale analysis, that is, the conclusions of the multiscale analysis are valid at every energy  $E \in \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$  [GK5, Theorem 2.8].*

**(RDD).** *Let  $\lambda > 0$ . If an energy  $E$  is in the region of dynamical delocalization  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DD}$  we must have  $\beta_{B,\lambda}(E) \geq \frac{1}{4}$ ; in fact,  $\beta_{B,\lambda}(p, E) \geq \frac{1}{4} - \frac{11}{2p} > 0$  for all  $p > 22$ . Moreover, for each  $\mathcal{X} \in C_{c,+}^{\infty}(\mathbb{R})$  with  $\mathcal{X} \equiv 1$  on some open interval  $J \ni E$  we have*

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{T^{\alpha}} \mathcal{M}_{B,\lambda}(p, \mathcal{X}, T) = \infty \quad (3.1)$$

for all  $\alpha \geq 0$  and  $p > 4\alpha + 22$  [GK5, Theorems 2.10 and 2.11].

**(DFP).** *The Fermi projection  $P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega}$  exhibits fast decay if the Fermi energy  $E$  is in the region of dynamical localization  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$ : If  $E \in \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$  and  $\zeta \in ]0, 1[$  we have*

$$\mathbb{E} \left\{ \|\chi_x P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega} \chi_y\|_2^2 \right\} \leq C_{\zeta,B,\lambda,E} e^{-|x-y|^{\zeta}} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \quad (3.2)$$

with the constant  $C_{\zeta,B,\lambda,E}$  locally bounded in  $E$ . (See [GK6], the result is based on [GK1, Theorem 3.8] and [BoGK, Theorem 1.4].) As a consequence, for  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.e.  $\omega$  and each  $\zeta \in ]0, 1[$  there exists  $C_{\zeta,B,\lambda,E,\omega} < \infty$ , locally bounded in  $E$ , such that

$$\|\chi_x P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega} \chi_y\|_2 \leq C_{\zeta,B,\lambda,E,\omega} \langle x \rangle \langle y \rangle e^{-|x-y|^{\zeta}} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2. \quad (3.3)$$

(Sufficiently fast polynomial decay would suffice for our purposes. Note that in the special case when  $E$  is in a spectral gap of  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  a simple argument based on the Combes-Thomas estimate yields exponential decay, i.e.,  $\zeta = 1$ .)

**(SUDEC).** *For  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.e.  $\omega$  the Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  has pure point spectrum in  $\Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$  with the following property: Given a closed interval  $I \subset \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{DL}$ , let  $\{\phi_{n,\omega}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$  be a complete orthonormal set of eigenfunctions of  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  with eigenvalues  $E_{n,\omega} \in I$ ; for each  $n$  we denote by  $P_{n,\omega}$  the one-dimensional orthogonal projection on the span of  $\phi_{n,\omega}$  and set  $\alpha_{n,\omega} = \|\langle x \rangle^{-2} P_{n,\omega}\|_2^2 = \|\langle x \rangle^{-2} \phi_{n,\omega}\|^2$ . Then for each  $\zeta \in ]0, 1[$  there exists  $C_{I,\zeta,\omega} < \infty$  such that for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  we have*

$$\|\chi_x P_{n,\omega} \chi_y\|_2 = \|\chi_x \phi_{n,\omega}\| \|\chi_y \phi_{n,\omega}\| \leq C_{I,\zeta,\omega} \alpha_{n,\omega} \langle x \rangle^2 \langle y \rangle^2 e^{-|x-y|^{\zeta}}. \quad (3.4)$$

Moreover, we have

$$\sum_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \alpha_{n,\omega} = \mu_{\omega}(I) := \text{tr} \left\{ \langle x \rangle^{-2} P_{B,\lambda,I,\omega} \langle x \rangle^{-2} \right\} < \infty. \quad (3.5)$$

(Almost-sure pure point spectrum is well known, e.g., [FrMSS, DrK, GK1, K13]. Property SUDEC, namely (3.4) with (3.5), is a modification of Germinet's WULE [G]. It is the almost everywhere consequence (by the Borel-Cantelli Lemma) of a new characterization of the region of dynamical localization given by Germinet and Klein [GK6]. SUDEC is equivalent to SULE-type properties.)

**Remark.** Throughout this work we characterize the localization regime using consequences of the multiscale analysis. If the single site bumps of the Anderson-type potential cover the whole space, i.e. if  $\sum_{i \in \mathbb{Z}^d} u(x-i) \geq \delta > 0$ , then another option is available, namely the fractional moment method [AENSS], which yields exponential bounds for expectations. However at this time the fractional moment method is not available for potentials which violate the aforementioned “covering condition.”

We now turn to the Hall conductance. Consider the switch function  $\Lambda(t) = \chi_{[\frac{1}{2}, \infty)}(t)$  and let  $\Lambda_j$  denotes multiplication by the function  $\Lambda_j(x) = \Lambda(x_j)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Given an orthogonal projection  $P$  on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$ , we set

$$\Theta(P) := \text{tr} \{P[[P, \Lambda_1], [P, \Lambda_2]]\}, \quad (3.6)$$

defined whenever

$$|\Theta|(P) := \|P[[P, \Lambda_1], [P, \Lambda_2]]\|_1 < \infty, \quad (3.7)$$

in which case we also have

$$\Theta(P) = \text{tr} \{[P\Lambda_1P, P\Lambda_2P]\}. \quad (3.8)$$

Note that although  $\Theta(P)$  is the trace of a commutator it need not be zero, because the two summands  $P\Lambda_1P\Lambda_2P$  and  $P\Lambda_2P\Lambda_1P$  are not separately trace class.

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $P$  be an orthogonal projection on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$  such that for some  $\xi \in ]0, 1]$ ,  $\kappa > 0$ , and  $K_P < \infty$  we have*

$$\|\chi_x P \chi_y\|_2 \leq K_P \langle x \rangle^\kappa \langle y \rangle^\kappa e^{-|x-y|^\xi} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2. \quad (3.9)$$

*Then:*

(i)  $|\Theta|(P) \leq C_{\xi, \kappa} K_P^2$  for some constant  $C_\xi$  independent of  $P$ , and  $\Theta(P)$  is well defined.

(ii) Given  $s \in \mathbb{R}$ , let  $\Lambda^{(s)}(t) = \Lambda(t-s)$  and  $\Lambda_j^{(s)}(x) = \Lambda^{(s)}(x_j)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . Set  $\Theta_{r,s}(P) = \text{tr} \left\{ P \left[ [P, \Lambda_1^{(r)}], [P, \Lambda_2^{(s)}] \right] \right\}$ ,  $r, s \in \mathbb{R}$ . Then  $\Theta_{r,s}(P)$  is well defined as in (i), and  $\Theta_{r,s}(P) = \Theta(P)$ .

(iii) Let  $Q$  be another orthogonal projection on  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$ , such that  $Q$  commutes with  $P$  and also satisfies (3.9) with some constant  $K_Q$ . Then  $P+Q$  is an orthogonal projection satisfying (3.9) with constant  $K_{P+Q} = K_P + K_Q$ , and we have

$$\Theta(P+Q) = \Theta(P) + \Theta(Q). \quad (3.10)$$

**Remark.** (i) is similar to statements in [AvSS, AG], (ii) and (iii) are well-known [AvSS, BeES, AG]. We provide a short proof in our setting; the precise form of the bound in (3.9) is important for Lemma 3.2. Lemma 3.1 remains true if  $\Lambda$  is replaced by any monotone “switch function,” with  $\Lambda(t) \rightarrow 0, 1$  as  $t \rightarrow -\infty, +\infty$ , with essentially the same proof.

*Proof.* If  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  we have  $\Lambda_j \chi_x = \Lambda(x_j) \chi_x$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , and hence, if  $x_1 y_1 > 0$  we get  $\chi_x [P, \Lambda_1] \chi_y = (\Lambda(y_1) - \Lambda(x_1)) \chi_x P \chi_y = 0$ . If  $x_1 y_1 \leq 0$ , we have  $|x_1 - y_1|^\xi \geq \frac{1}{2}|x_1|^\xi + \frac{1}{2}|y_1|^\xi$ . Thus it follows from (3.9) that for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  we have

$$\|\chi_x [P, \Lambda_1] \chi_y\|_2 \leq K_P \langle x \rangle^\kappa \langle y \rangle^\kappa e^{-\frac{1}{4}|x_1|^\xi - \frac{1}{4}|y_1|^\xi - \frac{1}{2}|x_2 - y_2|^\xi}, \quad (3.11)$$

and, similarly,

$$\|\chi_x [P, \Lambda_2] \chi_y\|_2 \leq K_P \langle x \rangle^\kappa \langle y \rangle^\kappa e^{-\frac{1}{4}|x_2|^\xi - \frac{1}{4}|y_2|^\xi - \frac{1}{2}|x_1 - y_1|^\xi}. \quad (3.12)$$

We conclude that

$$\|P[P, \Lambda_1][P, \Lambda_2]\|_1 \leq \sum_{x, y, z \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \|\chi_x[P, \Lambda_1]\chi_y\|_2 \|\chi_y[P, \Lambda_2]\chi_z\|_2 \leq C_1 K_P^2 < \infty, \quad (3.13)$$

where  $C_1$  is a finite constant independent of  $P$ , and similarly  $\|P[P, \Lambda_2][P, \Lambda_1]\|_1 \leq C_1 K_P^2$ . Part (i) follows.

The only nontrivial item in (iii) is (3.10). It follows from (3.6), cyclicity of the trace, and the fact that  $P[Q, \Lambda_j] = -P\Lambda_j Q$  for  $j = 1, 2$ .

The proof of (i) clearly applies also to  $\Theta_{r,s}(P)$ ; we only need to show that  $\Theta_{r,s}(P) = \Theta(P)$ . This will follow if we can show that

$$\text{tr} \{P[[P, F_1], [P, G_2]]\} = \text{tr} \{P[[P, G_1], [P, F_2]]\} = 0, \quad (3.14)$$

if  $F = \Lambda^{(s)} - \Lambda^{(s')}$  and  $G = \Lambda^{(s'')}$  for some  $s, s', s'' \in \mathbb{R}$ , with  $F_j(x) = F(x_j)$ ,  $G_j(x) = G(x_j)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ . If we write a trace without a comment, as in (3.14), we are implicitly stating that it is well defined by the argument in (3.11)-(3.13).

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \text{tr} \{P[[P, F_1], [P, G_2]]\} &= \text{tr} \{PF_1(I - P)[P, G_2]\} + \text{tr} \{[P, G_2](I - P)F_1P\} \\ &= \text{tr} \{F_1(I - P)[P, G_2]P + F_1P[P, G_2](I - P)\} \\ &= \text{tr} \{F_1[P, G_2]\} = \text{tr} \{[F_1P, G_2]\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3.15)$$

Here  $F_1[P, G_2] = [F_1P, G_2]$  is trace class as the sum of two trace class operators. This can also be seen directly as follows: The function  $F_1(x)$  has compact support in the  $x_1$  direction, and using the fact that  $P$  is a projection satisfying (3.9) we get

$$\|\chi_x P \chi_y\|_1 \leq C K_P^2 \langle x \rangle^{2\kappa} \langle y \rangle^{2\kappa} e^{-\frac{1}{2}|x-y|^\xi} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \quad (3.16)$$

for some constant  $C$ . Since  $F_1 P G_2$  and  $G_2 F_1 P$  may not be trace class, we introduce a cutoff  $Y_n(x) = \chi_{[-n, n]}(x_2)$  in the  $x_2$  direction. Note

$$\text{tr} \{Y_n[F_1P, G_2]\} = \text{tr} \{[Y_n F_1P, G_2]\} = 0, \quad (3.17)$$

since  $Y_n F_1 P G_2$  and  $Y_n G_2 F_1 P$  are trace class by (3.16) and the argument in the proof of Lemma 3.1. Thus

$$\text{tr} \{[F_1P, G_2]\} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \text{tr} \{Y_n[F_1P, G_2]\} = 0. \quad (3.18)$$

The other term in (3.14) is treated in the same way, and Part (ii) is proven.  $\square$

For a given disorder  $\lambda \geq 0$ , magnetic field  $B > 0$ , and energy  $E \in \Xi_{B, \lambda}^{\text{DL}}$ , we consider the Hall conductance [AvSS, ES]

$$\sigma_{H, \omega}(B, \lambda, E) = -2\pi i \Theta(P_{B, \lambda, E, \omega}), \quad (3.19)$$

well defined for  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.e.  $\omega$  in view of Lemma 3.1(i) and (DFP), namely (3.3). The covariance relation (2.6) and Lemma 3.1(ii) then imply  $\sigma_{H, \omega}(B, \lambda, E) = \sigma_{H, \tau_a \omega}(B, \lambda, E)$  for all  $a \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  for  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.e.  $\omega$ , and hence ergodicity yields

$$\sigma_H(B, \lambda, E) := \mathbb{E} \{\sigma_{H, \omega}(B, \lambda, E)\} = \sigma_{H, \omega}(B, \lambda, E) \quad \text{for } \mathbb{P}\text{-a.e. } \omega. \quad (3.20)$$

A key ingredient in justifications of the quantum Hall effect is that the Hall conductance should be constant in intervals of localization since localized states do not carry current [L, H, Ku, BeES]. The following lemma makes this precise in a very transparent way: In intervals of dynamical localization the change in the Hall conductance is given by the (infinite) sum of the Hall conductance of the individual localized states. But the conductance of a localized state is equal to  $-2\pi i \Theta(P)$ ,

where  $P$  is the orthogonal projection on the localized state. But if  $P$  is a one-dimensional orthogonal projection, say on the span of unit vector  $\psi$ , (3.8) yields

$$\Theta(P) = \langle \psi, \Lambda_1 \psi \rangle \langle \psi, \Lambda_2 \psi \rangle - \langle \psi, \Lambda_2 \psi \rangle \langle \psi, \Lambda_1 \psi \rangle = 0. \quad (3.21)$$

**Lemma 3.2.** *The Hall conductance  $\sigma_H(B, \lambda, E)$  is constant on connected components of  $\Xi_{B, \lambda}^{DL}$ , that is, if  $[E_1, E_2] \subset \Xi_{B, \lambda}^{DL}$  we must have  $\sigma_H(B, \lambda, E_1) = \sigma_H(B, \lambda, E_2)$ .*

*Proof.* If  $I = [E_1, E_2] \subset \Xi_{B, \lambda}^{DL}$ , we apply property (SUDEC) in  $I$  for the  $\mathbb{P}$ -a.e.  $\omega$  for which we have (3.4) and (3.5). Given a (finite or infinite) subset  $M$  of the index set  $\mathbb{N}$ , we set  $P_{M, \omega} = \sum_{n \in M} P_{n, \omega}$ ; it follows that we have condition (3.9) for  $P_{M, \omega}$  for  $\kappa = 2$  and all  $\zeta \in ]0, 1[$  with constant

$$K_{P_{M, \omega}} = C_{I, \zeta, \omega} \sum_{n \in M} \alpha_{n, \omega} \leq C_{I, \zeta, \omega} \mu_\omega(I) < \infty. \quad (3.22)$$

Since  $P_{B, \lambda, [E_1, E_2], \omega} = P_{B, \lambda, E_2, \omega} - P_{B, \lambda, E_1, \omega}$ , it follows from Lemma 3.1, (i) and (iii), that it suffices to prove that

$$\Theta(P_{B, \lambda, [E_1, E_2], \omega}) = 0. \quad (3.23)$$

But again using Lemma 3.1, (i) and (iii), taking  $M = \{1, 2, \dots, m\} \subset \mathbb{N}$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(P_{B, \lambda, [E_1, E_2], \omega}) &= \Theta(P_{\mathbb{N}, \omega}) = \Theta(P_{M, \omega}) + \Theta(P_{(\mathbb{N} \setminus M), \omega}) \\ &= \sum_{n=1}^m \Theta(P_{n, \omega}) + \Theta(P_{(\mathbb{N} \setminus M), \omega}). \end{aligned} \quad (3.24)$$

Since by Lemma 3.1(i), (3.22) and (3.5) we have

$$|\Theta(P_{(\mathbb{N} \setminus M), \omega})| \leq C_\zeta \left( C_{I, \zeta, \omega} \sum_{n=m+1}^{\infty} \alpha_{n, \omega} \right)^2 \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty, \quad (3.25)$$

we conclude that

$$\Theta(P_{B, \lambda, [E_1, E_2], \omega}) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \Theta(P_{n, \omega}) = 0 \quad (3.26)$$

in view of (3.21).  $\square$

**Remark.** The constancy of the Hall conductance in intervals of localization is known for lattice Hamiltonians with eigenvalues of finite multiplicity [BES, AG, EGS]. Since do not rule out eigenvalues of infinite multiplicity for random Landau Hamiltonians, we must take subsets of eigenfunctions, not of the interval  $I$ . The crucial estimate is thus (3.22), a consequence of property (SUDEC).

In the next lemma, we calculate the value of the Hall conductance in the spectral gaps between the bands under the disjoint bands condition.

**Lemma 3.3.** *Under the disjoint bands conditions (2.9) we have  $\sigma_H(B, \lambda, E) = n$  if  $E \in \mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda)$  for all  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$ .*

*Proof.* It is well known that  $\sigma_H(B, 0, E) = n$  if  $E \in ]B_n, B_{n+1}[$  for all  $n = 0, 1, 2, \dots$  [AvSS, BeES]. Under condition (2.9), if  $E \in \mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda_1)$  for some  $n \in \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$  we can find  $\lambda_E > \lambda_1$  such that  $E \in \mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda)$  for all  $\lambda \in I = [0, \lambda_E[$ . We take

$\omega \in [-M_1, M_2]^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ , a set of probability one, and note that the contour  $\Gamma$  below and all the constants on what follows are independent of  $\omega$ . We have

$$P_\lambda = -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_\Gamma R_\lambda(z) dz \quad \text{for all } \lambda \in I, \quad (3.27)$$

where  $P_\lambda = P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega}$ ,  $R_\lambda(z) = (H_{B,\lambda,\omega} - z)^{-1}$ , and  $\Gamma$  is a bounded contour such that  $d(\Gamma, \sigma(H_{B,\lambda,\omega})) \geq \eta > 0$  for all  $\lambda \in I$ . (Note  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega} \geq B - \lambda_E M_1$  for all  $\lambda \in I$ .) We have ( $K_1, K_2, \dots$  denote constants)

$$\|\chi_x R_\lambda(z) \chi_y\| \leq K_1 e^{-K_1|x-y|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, z \in \Gamma, \lambda \in I, \quad (3.28)$$

$$\|R_\lambda(z) \chi_x\|_2 \leq K_2 \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}^2, z \in \Gamma, \lambda \in I, \quad (3.29)$$

where (3.28) is the Combes-Thomas estimate (e.g., [GK2, Corollary 1]) and (3.29) is in [BoGKS, Proposition 2.1]. Combining with (3.27), we get

$$\|\chi_x P_\lambda \chi_y\| \leq \frac{K_1 |\Gamma|}{2\pi} e^{-K_1|x-y|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \lambda \in I, \quad (3.30)$$

$$\|\chi_x P_\lambda \chi_y\|_1 \leq \left( \frac{K_2 |\Gamma|}{2\pi} \right)^2 \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \lambda \in I, \quad (3.31)$$

$$\|\chi_x P_\lambda \chi_y\|_2 \leq K_3 e^{-K_3|x-y|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \lambda \in I, \quad (3.32)$$

where (3.32) follows from (3.30) and (3.31).

Given  $\lambda, \xi \in I$ , it follows from (3.27) and the resolvent identity that

$$Q_{\lambda,\xi} := P_\xi - P_\lambda = \frac{(\xi - \lambda)}{2\pi i} \int_\Gamma R_\lambda(z) V R_\xi(z) dz, \quad (3.33)$$

with  $V = V_\omega$  (recall  $\|V\| \leq \max\{M_1, M_2\}$ ). Using (3.28) and (3.29), we get

$$\|\chi_x Q_{\lambda,\xi} \chi_y\|_2 \leq K_4 e^{-K_4|x-y|} \quad \text{for all } x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \lambda, \xi \in I. \quad (3.34)$$

We now use an idea of Elgart and Schlein [ES]. If the potential  $V$  had compact support, it would follow from (3.29) that  $Q_{\lambda,\xi}$  is trace class. In this case, using (3.8) and (3.33), we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(P_\xi) - \Theta(P_\lambda) &= \text{tr} \{ [Q_{\lambda,\xi} \Lambda_1 P_\xi, P_\xi \Lambda_2 P_\xi] + [P_\lambda \Lambda_1 Q_{\lambda,\xi}, P_\xi \Lambda_2 P_\xi] \\ &\quad + [P_\lambda \Lambda_1 P_\lambda, Q_{\lambda,\xi} \Lambda_2 P_\xi] + [P_\lambda \Lambda_1 P_\lambda, P_\lambda \Lambda_2 Q_{\lambda,\xi}] \} = 0, \end{aligned} \quad (3.35)$$

since  $\text{tr}[A, B] = 0$  if either  $A$  or  $B$  are trace class by centrality of the trace. Our potential  $V$ , given in (2.3), does not have compact support, so we will use an approximation argument.

Given  $L > 0$  and  $\omega \in [-M_1, M_2]^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$ , we define  $\omega^{(L)}, \omega^{(>L)} \in [-M_1, M_2]^{\mathbb{Z}^2}$  by  $\omega_i^{(L)} = \omega_i$  if  $|i| \leq L$  and  $\omega_i^{(L)} = 0$  otherwise. and  $\omega_i^{(>L)} = \omega_i - \omega_i^{(L)}$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ . Recalling (2.3), we set  $V_L = V_{\omega^{(L)}}$ ,  $V_{>L} = V_{\omega^{(>L)}}$  and  $V = V_L + V_{>L}$ ,  $P_{\lambda,L} = P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega^{(L)}}$ ,  $P_{\lambda,>L} = P_{B,\lambda,E,\omega^{(>L)}}$  and  $P_\lambda = P_{\lambda,L} + P_{\lambda,>L}$ , etc. We have

$$Q_{\lambda,>L} := P_\lambda - P_{\lambda,L} = \frac{\lambda}{2\pi i} \int_\Gamma R_\lambda(z) V_{>L} R_{\lambda,L}(z) dz. \quad (3.36)$$

Moreover, it follows from (3.36) and (3.28) that

$$\|\chi_x Q_{\lambda,>L} \chi_y\| \leq K_5 e^{-K_5(\max\{L-|x|,0\} + \max\{L-|y|,0\})} e^{-K_5|x-y|} \quad (3.37)$$

for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ ,  $\lambda \in I$  and  $L > 0$ , with a similar estimate holding in the Hilbert-Schmidt norm by the argument used for (3.32). Using (3.6) and (3.36), we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(P_\lambda) - \Theta(P_{\lambda,L}) &= \text{tr} \{ Q_{\lambda,>L} [[P_\lambda, \Lambda_1], [P_\lambda, \Lambda_2]] + P_{\lambda,L} [[Q_{\lambda,>L}, \Lambda_1], [P_\lambda, \Lambda_2]] \\ &\quad + P_{\lambda,L} [[P_{\lambda,L}, \Lambda_1], [Q_{\lambda,>L}, \Lambda_2]] \} \rightarrow 0 \quad \text{as } L \rightarrow \infty, \end{aligned} \quad (3.38)$$

where the convergence to 0 is proved as follows: Since  $\|Q_{\lambda,>L}\| \leq K_6$  for all  $L > 0$  and  $Q_{\lambda,>L} \rightarrow 0$  strongly as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ , the trace of the first term goes to 0 as  $L \rightarrow \infty$ . The traces of the other two terms can be estimated as in (3.13), and converge to 0 as  $L \rightarrow \infty$  by an argument using (3.37) and dominated convergence.

The lemma now follows from (3.35) and (3.38).  $\square$

We may now finish the proof of Theorem 2.2. Since (2.9) holds, if  $\mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda) \subset \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}}$  for some  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$  we have

$$[B_{n-1} + \lambda M_1, B_{n+1} - \lambda M_2] = \mathcal{G}_{n-1}(B, \lambda) \cup \mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda) \cup \mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda) \subset \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}},$$

and hence it follows from Lemma 3.2 that the Hall conductance  $\sigma_H(B, \lambda, E)$  has the same value on the spectral gaps  $\mathcal{G}_{n-1}(B, \lambda)$  and  $\mathcal{G}_n(B, \lambda)$ , which contradicts Lemma 3.3. Thus we must have  $\mathcal{B}_n(B, \lambda) \cap \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DD}} \neq \emptyset$  for all  $n \in \{1, 2, \dots\}$ , and hence Theorem 2.2 follows from property (RDD).

#### 4. THE APPLICABILITY OF THE MULTISCALE ANALYSIS

In order to use properties (RDL), (RDD), (DFP), and (SUDEC), we must show that the random Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  ( $\lambda > 0$ ) satisfy the hypotheses in [GK1, GK5] at all energies, including the Landau levels. These were called assumptions or properties SGEE, SLI, EDI, IAD, NE, and W in [GK1, GK3, GK5, K13]. (Although the results in [GK1, GK5] are written for random Schrödinger operators without magnetic fields, they hold without change with magnetic fields as long as these hypotheses are satisfied.)

Property SGEE guarantees the existence of a generalized eigenfunction expansion in the strong sense (the required trace estimate holds in expectation) and is known for a large class of random operators which includes the random Landau Hamiltonian (the trace estimate for Schrödinger operators with magnetic fields can be found in [BoGKS, Proposition 2.1]).

Properties SLI, EDI, IAD, NE, and W are the requirements for a multiscale analysis, and are properties concerning an appropriate finite volume restriction of the random Schrödinger operator. For the random Landau Hamiltonian the finite volumes may be the squares  $\Lambda_L(x)$  with  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  and  $L \in L_0\mathbb{N}$  for a suitable  $L_0 \geq 1$ . The multiscale analysis requires the notion of a *finite volume operator*, a “restriction”  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}$  of  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  to the square  $\Lambda_L(x)$  where the “randomness based outside the square  $\Lambda_L(x)$ ” is not taken into account. Usually the finite volume operator is defined as an operator on  $L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx)$  by specifying the boundary condition, most commonly Dirichlet or periodic boundary condition. (In the case of the random Landau Hamiltonian it has also been defined as an operator on the whole space by throwing away the random coefficients “based outside the square  $\Lambda_L(x)$ ” [CoH2, W1, GK4].)

*But it is not necessary to use the same boundary condition on all squares.* For the multiscale analysis it suffices to fix a scale  $L_0 \geq 1$ , *not necessarily an integer*, fix some  $\varrho > 0$ , and define a random operator  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}$  on  $L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx)$  for each  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  and  $L \in L_0\mathbb{N}$  as follows: First pick a closed densely defined operator  $\mathbf{D}_{B,x,L}$  from

$L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx)$  to  $L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx; \mathbb{C}^2)$  which is an extension of the differential operator  $\mathbf{D}_B = (-i\nabla - \mathbf{A})$  restricted to  $C_c^\infty(\Lambda_L(x))$ . Second, pick a random potential  $V_{x,L,\omega}$  in the square  $\Lambda_L(x)$  depending only on the random variables  $\{\omega_i; i \in \Lambda_L(x)\}$ , and set  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L} = \mathbf{D}_{B,x,L}^* \mathbf{D}_{B,x,L} + \lambda V_{x,L,\omega}$  on  $L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx)$ . Require of the operators  $\mathbf{D}_{B,x,L}$  that the resulting  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}$  have compact resolvent and satisfy the covariance condition (*but only between  $x$  and 0, not between arbitrary  $x$  and  $y$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^2$* )

$$H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L} = U_x H_{B,\lambda,\tau_{-x}(\omega),0,L} U_x^* \quad \text{for all } x \in \mathbb{Z}^2, \quad (4.1)$$

where the magnetic translation  $U_x$  is as in (2.4) but considered as a unitary map from  $L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx)$  to  $L^2(\Lambda_L(x), dx)$ . Furthermore, require the following compatibility conditions: If  $\varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{D}_{B,x,L})$  with  $\text{supp } \varphi \subset \Lambda_{L-\varrho}(0)$ , then  $\mathcal{I}_L \varphi \in \mathcal{D}(\mathbf{D}_B)$ , and

$$\mathcal{I}_L \mathbf{D}_{B,x,L} \varphi = \mathbf{D}_B \mathcal{I}_L \varphi, \quad \mathcal{I}_L \chi_{x,L-\varrho} V_{x,L,\omega} = \chi_{x,L-\varrho} V_\omega, \quad (4.2)$$

where  $\mathcal{I}_L: L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx) \rightarrow L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$  is the canonical injection:  $(\mathcal{I}_L \varphi)(x) = \varphi(x)$  if  $x \in \Lambda_L(0)$ ,  $(\mathcal{I}_L \varphi)(x) = 0$  otherwise (we also use  $\mathcal{I}_L$  for  $\mathbb{C}^2$  valued functions). This is equivalent to fixing the boundary condition for the operators  $\mathbf{D}_{B,x,L}$  at the square centered at 0, and using the magnetic translations to define the finite volume operators in all other squares by (4.1); note that in the square centered at  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  with side  $L - \varrho$  the potential  $V_{x,L,\omega}$  is just  $V_\omega$ . (This also applies for “finite volume operators” defined on the whole space, except that these operators are only relatively compact perturbations of  $H_B$ .)

One must then show that the properties SLI, EDI, IAD, NE, and W hold for these finite volume operators. Only properties W (the Wegner estimate) and NE (average number of eigenvalues) present difficulties. Property IAD (independence at a distance) is obvious. Properties SLI (Simon-Lieb inequality) and EDI (eigenfunction decay inequality) follow from (4.1) and (4.2) as in [GK5, Theorem A.1] (see also the discussion in [GK3, Section 4]).

If the single bump potential  $u$  in (2.3) has  $\varepsilon_u \geq 1$ , then properties W and NE are proven for appropriate finite dimensional operators in [HuLMW] at all energies. But if  $\varepsilon_u$  is small (the most interesting case for this paper in view of Corollary 2.3), a Wegner estimate (and Assumption NE) at all energies was only known under the rational flux condition on the unit square, namely  $B \in 2\pi\mathbb{Q}$  [CoHK]; otherwise a Wegner estimate was known under the hypotheses of Corollary 2.3 but only at energies different from the Landau levels [CoH2, W1].

The Wegner estimate is closely connected to Hölder continuity of the integrated density of states, in fact Combes, Hislop and Klopp [CoHK] proved first a Wegner estimate for random Landau Hamiltonians with  $B \in 2\pi\mathbb{Q}$ , and from it derived the Hölder continuity of the integrated density of states. Combes, Hislop, Klopp and Raikov [CoHKKR] established the Hölder continuity of the integrated density of states for  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega}$  as in (2.1) with no extra hypotheses, but they did not obtain estimates on finite volume operators, and hence no Wegner estimate.

In the next theorem we establish a Wegner estimate (and also property NE) for the random Landau Hamiltonian as in (2.1), for an appropriate choice of finite volume operators. Although the Wegner estimate does not follow from Hölder continuity of the integrated density of states, we use some of the key results in [CoHKKR] to obtain the crucial estimate [CoHK, Eq. (3.1)], from which the Wegner estimate follows as in [CoHK, Proof of Theorem 1.2].

Let  $B > 0$  be arbitrary; since we do not assume the rational flux condition on the unit square, we set a length scale corresponding to squares with even (for convenience) integer flux. We take  $K_B = \min\{k \in \mathbb{N}; k \geq \sqrt{\frac{B}{4\pi}}\}$ , and set

$$L_B = K_B \sqrt{\frac{4\pi}{B}}, \quad \mathbb{N}_B = L_B \mathbb{N}, \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{Z}_B^2 = L_B \mathbb{Z}^2. \quad (4.3)$$

Note that  $L_B \geq 1$  may not be an integer. We consider squares  $\Lambda_L(0)$  with  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  and identify them with the torii  $\mathbb{T}_L := \mathbb{R}^2 / (L\mathbb{Z}^2)$  in the usual way. As shown in [CoHK, Section 4], the magnetic translations  $\mathcal{U}_B := \{U_a; a \in \mathbb{Z}_B^2\}$  form a unitary representation of the abelian group  $\mathbb{Z}_B^2$ ; we write  $\widehat{U}_a$  for the corresponding action on  $L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx)$ , with  $\widehat{U}_B := \{\widehat{U}_a; a \in \mathbb{Z}_B^2\}$ . If  $x \in \Lambda_L(0)$  and  $r < L$  we denote by  $\widehat{\Lambda}_r(x)$  and  $\widehat{\chi}_{x,L}$  the square and characteristic function in the torus  $\mathbb{T}_L$ .

Given  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$ , we define  $H_{B,0,L} = \mathbf{D}_{B,0,L}^* \mathbf{D}_{B,0,L}$ , with  $\mathbf{D}_{B,0,L}$  the restriction of  $\mathbf{D}_B$  to  $L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx)$  with periodic boundary condition with respect to  $\widehat{U}_B$ . The spectrum of  $H_{B,0,L}$  still consists of the Landau levels:  $\sigma(H_{B,0,L}) = \sigma(H_B) = \{B_n; n = 0, 1, \dots\}$ , but since  $H_{B,0,L}$  has compact resolvent each Landau level has now finite multiplicity. We let  $\widetilde{\Lambda}_L(x) = \mathbb{Z}^2 \cap \Lambda_L(x)$ . Given  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  we set

$$\begin{aligned} H_{B,\lambda,0,L,\omega} &= H_{B,0,L} + \lambda V_{0,L,\omega} \quad \text{on} \quad L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx), \\ V_{0,L,\omega}(x) &= \sum_{i \in \widetilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} \omega_i u(x-i), \end{aligned} \quad (4.4)$$

where  $\text{supp } u \subset \Lambda_{\delta_u}(0)$ , and then define  $H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  by (4.1). (We prescribed periodic boundary condition for the (free) Landau Hamiltonian at the square centered at 0, and used the magnetic translations to define the finite volume operators in all other squares by (4.1); in the square centered at  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$  the potential  $V_{x,L,\omega}$  is exactly as in (4.4) except that the sum is now over  $i \in \widetilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(x)$ .) Note that  $H_{B,\lambda,x,L,\omega}$  has compact resolvent and satisfies the compatibility conditions (4.2) for an appropriate  $\varrho > 0$ .

The following theorem establishes both property W and NE for these finite volume operators at all energies. We write  $P_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}(\mathcal{J}) = \chi_{\mathcal{J}}(H_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L})$  if  $\mathcal{J} \subset \mathbb{R}$  is a Borel set. Recall that  $\rho$  is the bounded density of the common probability distribution of the  $\omega_i$ 's.

**Theorem 4.1.** *Fix  $B > 0$  and  $\lambda > 0$ . Given a bounded interval  $I \subset \mathbb{R}$  and  $q \in ]0, 1[$ , there exist constants  $Q_{B,\lambda,I,q} < \infty$  and  $\eta_{B,\lambda,I} \in ]0, 1]$ , and a finite scale  $L_{B,\lambda,I,q}$ , such that for all subintervals  $J \subset I$  with  $|J| \leq \eta_{B,\lambda,I}$ ,  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  with  $L \geq L_{B,\lambda,I,q}$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ , we have*

$$\mathbb{E} \{ \text{tr } P_{B,\lambda,\omega,x,L}(J) \} \leq Q_{B,\lambda,I,q} \|\rho\|_{\infty} |J|^q L^2. \quad (4.5)$$

*Proof.* In view of (4.1) it suffices to prove the theorem for  $x = 0$ .

We start by proving a lemma that will allow us to derive the theorem from the results of [CoHKR, CoHK]. For each  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  we set  $\Gamma_L = \chi_{\widetilde{\Lambda}_{L-1}(0) \setminus \Lambda_{L-3}(0)}$  and fix a function  $\Phi_L \in C^\infty(\mathbb{R}^2)$  such that  $\Phi_L(x) \equiv 1$  on  $\Lambda_{L-\frac{5}{2}}(0)$ ,  $\text{supp } \Phi_L \subset \Lambda_{L-\frac{3}{2}}(0)$ , and  $0 \leq \Phi_L(x) \leq 1$ ,  $|\nabla \Phi_L(x)| \leq 5$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . (Such a function always exists.) We use  $\Phi_L$ ,  $(\nabla \Phi_L)$ , and  $\chi_r = \chi_{0,r}$  ( $0 < r \leq L$ ) to denote the operators given by multiplication by the functions  $\Phi_L$ ,  $\nabla \Phi_L$  and  $\chi_r$  in both  $L^2(\Lambda_L(0), dx)$  and  $L^2(\mathbb{R}^2, dx)$ . For convenience we set  $H_{B,L} = H_{B,0,L}$ ,  $\mathbb{N}_B = \mathbb{N}_B \cup \{\infty\}$ ,  $H_{B,\infty} = H_B$ , and so on. By  $C_{a,b,\dots}$  we denote a constant depending only on the parameters



$a, b, \dots$  (we may use the same  $C_{a,b,\dots}$  for different constants), and similarly for constants  $m_{a,b,\dots} > 0$ .

**Lemma 4.2.** *Fix  $B > 0$ . Given  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $L \in \tilde{\mathbb{N}}_B$ , let  $\Pi_{n,L} = \Pi_{B,n,L}$  denote the orthogonal projection on the eigenspace corresponding to the  $n$ -th Landau level  $B_n$  for the Landau Hamiltonian  $H_{B,L}$ . Then for all  $x \in \Lambda_{L_B}(0)$ ,  $r > 0$ , and  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  such that  $L \geq 2(L_B + r)$ , we have*

$$\Pi_{n,L} \chi_{x,r} \Pi_{n,L} = \Phi_L \mathcal{I}_L^* \Pi_n \chi_{x,r} \Pi_n \mathcal{I}_L \Phi_L + \mathcal{E}_{x,r,n,L}, \quad (4.6)$$

with the error operator  $\mathcal{E}_{x,r,n,L}$  satisfying

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{x,r,n,L}\| \leq C_{n,B} e^{-m_{n,B}L}. \quad (4.7)$$

*Proof.* Let  $L$ ,  $r$ , and  $x$  be as in the lemma. Since all  $H_{B,L}$  have the same spectrum, namely the Landau levels, we have

$$\Pi_{n,L} = -\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma_n} R_L(z) dz \text{ with } R_L(z) = (H_{B,L} - z)^{-1} \text{ if } L \in \tilde{\mathbb{N}}_B, \quad (4.8)$$

where  $\gamma_n$  denotes the circle centered at  $B_n$  with radius  $B$ . Let  $z \in \gamma_n$ , in view of (4.2) we may use the smooth resolvent identity as in [GK5, Eq. (6.13)] to obtain,

$$\begin{aligned} \chi_{x,r} \mathcal{I}_L R_L(z) &= \chi_{x,r} \Phi_L \mathcal{I}_L R_L(z) = \chi_{x,r} R(z) \Phi_L \mathcal{I}_L - \chi_{x,r} Y_L(z), \\ Y_L(z) &:= iR(z) \{ \mathbf{D}_B^* (\nabla \Phi) \mathcal{I}_L + \mathcal{I}_L (\nabla \Phi)^* \mathbf{D}_{B,L} \} R_L(z). \end{aligned} \quad (4.9)$$

Proceeding as in [GK5, Proof of Lemma 6.4], using  $L \geq 2(L_B + r)$ ,  $\|R_L(z)\| = \frac{1}{B}$ ,  $|z| \leq B_n + B$ , and the Combes-Thomas estimate (e.g., [GK2, Theorem 1]), we obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \|\chi_{x,r} Y_L(z)\| &\leq \|\chi_{x,r} R(z) \mathbf{D}_B^* \|\nabla \Phi\| \|R_L(z)\| + \|\chi_{x,r} R(z) \|\nabla \Phi\| \|\mathbf{D}_{B,L} R_L(z)\| \\ &\leq C_{n,B} \|\chi_{x,r} R(z) \Gamma_L\| \leq C_{n,B} e^{-m_{n,B}L}. \end{aligned} \quad (4.10)$$

Putting together (4.8), (4.9), and (4.10) we get

$$\chi_{x,r} \Pi_{n,L} = \chi_{x,r} \mathcal{I}_L^* \Pi_n \mathcal{I}_L \Phi_L + \mathcal{E}'_{x,r,n,L}, \quad (4.11)$$

with the error operator  $\mathcal{E}'_{x,r,n,L}$  satisfying the estimate (4.7). The lemma now follows from (4.11).  $\square$

Using Lemma 4.2 we adapt the crucial [CoHKR, Lemma 2] to finite volume.

**Lemma 4.3.** *Fix  $B > 0$ ,  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\varepsilon > 0$ ,  $R > \varepsilon$ , and  $\eta > 0$ . If  $\kappa > 1$  and  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  are such that  $L > 2(L_B + \kappa R)$ , then for all  $x \in \Lambda_L(0)$  we have*

$$\Pi_{n,L} \hat{\chi}_{x,\varepsilon} \Pi_{n,L} \geq C_0 \Pi_{n,L} (\hat{\chi}_{x,R} - \eta \hat{\chi}_{x,\kappa R}) \Pi_{n,L} + \Pi_{n,L} \mathcal{E}_{n,x,L} \Pi_{n,L}, \quad (4.12)$$

where  $C_0 = C_{0;n,B,\varepsilon,R,\eta} > 0$  is a constant and the error operator  $\mathcal{E}_{n,x,L} = \mathcal{E}_{n,x,L,B,\varepsilon,R,\eta}$  satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{n,x,L}\| \leq C_{n,B,\varepsilon,R,\eta} e^{-m_{n,B}L}. \quad (4.13)$$

*Proof.* Given  $B, n, \varepsilon, R, \eta$  as in the Lemma, it follows from [CoHKR, Lemma 2] that for all  $\kappa > 1$  and  $x \in \mathbb{R}^2$  we have

$$\Pi_n \chi_{x,\varepsilon} \Pi_n \geq C_0 \Pi_n (\chi_{x,R} - \eta \chi_{x,\kappa R}) \Pi_n, \quad C_0 = C_{0;B,n,\varepsilon,R,\eta} > 0. \quad (4.14)$$

(Although [CoHKR, Eq 61] is stated for discs instead of squares, (4.14) follows with a small change in the constant  $C_0$ .)

Let  $\kappa > 1$  and  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  be such that  $L > 2(L_B + \kappa R)$ . If  $x \in \Lambda_{L_B}(0)$ , it follows from Lemma 4.2 and (4.14) that

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{n,L} \chi_{x,\varepsilon} \Pi_{n,L} &= \Phi_L \mathcal{I}_L^* \Pi_n \chi_{x,\varepsilon} \Pi_n \mathcal{I}_L \Phi_L + \mathcal{E}_{2;x,\varepsilon,n,L} \\ &\geq C_0 \Phi_L \mathcal{I}_L^* \Pi_n (\chi_{x,R} - \eta \chi_{x,\kappa R}) \Pi_n \mathcal{I}_L \Phi_L + \mathcal{E}_{2;x,\varepsilon,n,L} \\ &= C_0 \Pi_{n,L} (\chi_{x,R} - \eta \chi_{x,\kappa R}) \Pi_{n,L} + \mathcal{E}_{x,\varepsilon,R,\kappa,n,L}, \end{aligned} \quad (4.15)$$

and hence we have (4.12) and (4.13) for  $x \in \Lambda_{L_B}(0)$ . For arbitrary  $x \in \Lambda_L(0)$ , we pick  $a_x \in \mathbb{Z}_B^2$  such that  $x - a_x \in \Lambda_{L_B}(0)$  (such  $a_x$  always exists). Since  $\hat{\chi}_{x,\ell} = \hat{U}_{a_x} \hat{\chi}_{x-a_x,\ell} \hat{U}_{a_x}^*$  for  $\ell < L$  and  $\hat{U}_{a_x} \Pi_{n,L} \hat{U}_{a_x}^* = \Pi_{n,L}$ , (4.12) and (4.13) follows with  $\mathcal{E}_{n,x,L} = \hat{U}_{a_x} \mathcal{E}_{n,x-a_x,L} \hat{U}_{a_x}^*$ .  $\square$

We can now finish the proof of Theorem 4.1. Let

$$\tilde{V}_L(x) := \sum_{i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} u(x-i) \geq u^- \sum_{i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} \chi_{i,\varepsilon_u}. \quad (4.16)$$

We fix  $R > 1 + 2\delta_u$ , in which case  $\sum_{i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} \hat{\chi}_{i,R} \geq \chi_{0,L}$ , and  $\kappa > 1$ , and pick  $\eta > 0$  such that  $\eta \sum_{i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} \hat{\chi}_{i,\kappa R} \leq \frac{1}{2} \chi_{0,L}$ . It follows from (4.16) and Lemma 4.3 that for all  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  with  $L > 2(L_B + \kappa R)$  we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi_{n,L} \tilde{V}_L \Pi_{n,L} &\geq u^- C_0 \sum_{i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L-\delta_u}(0)} \Pi_{n,L} (\hat{\chi}_{i,R} - \eta \hat{\chi}_{i,\kappa R}) \Pi_{n,L} + \Pi_{n,L} \mathcal{E}_{n,L} \Pi_{n,L} \\ &\geq \frac{u^- C_0}{2} \Pi_{n,L} + \Pi_{n,L} \mathcal{E}_{n,L} \Pi_{n,L} \geq C_1 \Pi_{n,L} \end{aligned} \quad (4.17)$$

for  $L \geq L^*$  for some  $L^* = L_{n,B,\varepsilon,R,\kappa,\eta}^* < \infty$  and  $C_1 = \frac{u^- C_0}{4}$ , since the error term  $\mathcal{E}_{n,L}$  satisfies

$$\|\mathcal{E}_{n,L}\| \leq 2L^2 C_{n,B,\varepsilon,R,\eta} e^{-m_{n,B} L}. \quad (4.18)$$

Theorem 4.1 now follows by [CoHK, Proof of Theorem 1.2], since (4.17) for all  $n = 1, 2, \dots$  gives the crucial estimate [CoHK, Eq. (3.1)]  $\square$

## 5. THE SMALL DISORDER LIMIT

*Proof of Corollary 2.4.* Note first that  $1 < c_{b,\lambda} \leq 2$  for  $\lambda \leq \lambda_1$ , which we assume from now on. Fixing  $B > b$ , we have (2.11) with  $\mathcal{I}_n(B, \lambda) = \mathcal{I}_n(B) := \mathcal{I}_n(B, 1)$  for all  $\lambda$  and  $n = 1, 2, \dots$ . By the hypothesis on the density  $\rho$ , for all  $\varepsilon > 0$  we have

$$\nu_\lambda(\{|u| \geq \varepsilon\}) \leq C_1 (\lambda \varepsilon^{-1})^{\gamma-1}. \quad (5.1)$$

Let  $L_0 \in \mathbb{N}_B$  (see (4.3)), and let  $H_{B,\lambda,0,L_0,\omega}$  and  $V_{0,L_0,\omega}$  be as in (4.4) with  $\lambda = 1$  but with  $\nu_\lambda$  being the common probability distribution of the random variables  $\{\omega_i; i \in \mathbb{Z}^2\}$ . The spectrum of these finite volume Hamiltonians satisfies (2.8) (appropriately modified) for each  $\omega$ , and hence

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{P} \left\{ \sigma(H_{B,\lambda,0,L_0,\omega}) \subset \bigcup_{n=1}^{\infty} [B_n - \varepsilon, B_n + \varepsilon] \right\} &\geq \mathbb{P} \left\{ |\omega_i| \leq \varepsilon \text{ if } i \in \tilde{\Lambda}_{L_0-\delta_u}(0) \right\} \\ &\geq \left( 1 - C_1 (\lambda \varepsilon^{-1})^{\gamma-1} \right)^{(L_0-\delta_u)^2} \geq 1 - C_2 (\lambda \varepsilon^{-1})^{\gamma-1} L_0^2 \end{aligned} \quad (5.2)$$

for small  $(\lambda \varepsilon^{-1})^{\gamma-1}$ .

We now apply the finite volume criterion for localization given in [GK3, Theorem 2.4], in the same way as in [GK3, Proof of Theorem 3.1], with parameters (we

fix  $q \in ]0, 1[$ )  $\eta_{I,\lambda} = \frac{1}{2}\eta_{B,\lambda,I,q} = \frac{1}{2}\eta_{B,1,I,q}$  and  $Q_{I,\lambda} = Q_{B,\lambda,I,q} \leq 2\lambda^{-1}Q_{I,1}$ , where  $\eta_{B,\lambda,I}$  and  $Q_{B,\lambda,I,q}$  come from Theorem 4.1. (Note that the fact that we work with length scales  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  instead of  $L \in 6\mathbb{N}$  only affects the values of the constants in [GK3, Eqs. (2.16)–(2.18)].) The SLI constant  $\gamma_{I,B,\lambda}$  is uniformly bounded in closed intervals  $I$  if  $\lambda \leq B$ . Since we are working in spectral gaps, we use the Combes-Thomas estimate of [BCH, Proposition 3.2] (see also [KIK1, Theorem 3.5]—its proof, based on [BCH, Lemma 3.1], also works for Schrödinger operators with magnetic fields), adapted to finite volume as in [GK3, Section 3].

Now fix  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ , take  $I = \mathcal{I}_n(B)$ , and set  $L_0 = L_0(n, B)$  to be the smallest  $L \in \mathbb{N}_B$  satisfying [GK3, Eq. (2.16)]. Let  $E \in \mathcal{I}_n(B)$ ,  $|E - B_n| \geq 2\varepsilon$ , where  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon(n, B, \lambda) > 0$  will be chosen later. Then, using (5.2) and the Combes-Thomas estimate, we conclude that condition [GK3, Eq. (2.17)] will be satisfied at energy  $E$  if

$$\varepsilon \geq C_3 \lambda L_0^{\frac{2}{\gamma-1}}, \quad (5.3)$$

$$C_4 (\lambda\varepsilon)^{-1} L_0^{\frac{25}{3}} e^{-C_5 \sqrt{\varepsilon} L_0} < 1, \quad (5.4)$$

for appropriate constants  $C_j = C_j(n, B)$ ,  $j = 3, 4, 5$ , with  $C_5 > 0$ . This can be done by choosing

$$\varepsilon = C_6 \lambda^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} |\log \lambda|^{\frac{2}{\gamma}}, \quad (5.5)$$

with a sufficiently large constant  $C_6 = C_6(n, B)$  and taking  $\lambda \leq \lambda_2$  for some  $0 < \lambda_2 = \lambda_2(n, B, C_6)$ . We conclude from [GK3, Theorem 2.4] that

$$\left\{ E \in \mathcal{I}_n(B); |E - B_n| \geq 2C_5 \lambda^{\frac{\gamma-1}{\gamma}} |\log \lambda|^{\frac{2}{\gamma}} \right\} \subset \Xi_{B,\lambda}^{\text{DL}}. \quad (5.6)$$

for all  $\lambda \leq \lambda_2$ .

The existence at small disorder of dynamical mobility edges  $\tilde{E}_{j,n}(B, \lambda)$ ,  $j = 1, 2$ , satisfying (2.24), (2.25), and (2.26) now follows from Theorem 2.1 and (5.6).

The case when  $e^{|u|^\alpha} \rho(u)$  is bounded for some  $\alpha > 0$  can be treated in a similar way.  $\square$

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UNIVERSITÉ DE CERGY-PONTOISE, DÉPARTEMENT DE MATHÉMATIQUES, SITE DE SAINT-MARTIN,  
2 AVENUE ADOLPHE CHAUVIN, 95302 CERGY-PONTOISE CEDEX, FRANCE

*E-mail address:* `germinet@math.u-cergy.fr`

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE, DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS, IRVINE, CA 92697-3875,  
USA

*E-mail address:* `aklein@uci.edu`

ETH ZÜRICH, THEORETISCHE PHYSIK, CH-8093 ZÜRICH, SWITZERLAND

*E-mail address:* `jschenker@itp.phys.ethz.ch`